REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed October 24, 2003, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1-20 and 22-24 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-20 and 22-24 stand rejected. Applicants propose to amend claims 1, 3, 6, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19 and 22, and respectfully request reconsideration of the application as proposed to be amended herein.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejections

Obviousness Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 5,539,452 to Bush et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,281 to Clapp et al.

Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-20 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bush et al.(U.S. Patent No. 5,539,452) in view of Clapp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,802,281). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

> M.P.E.P. 706.02(j) sets forth the standard for a Section 103(a) rejection:
>
> To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, **the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.** The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). (Emphasis added).

The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) obviousness rejections of independent claims 1, 11, 22 and claims 2, 3, 5-10 and 12, 13, 15-20 and 23-24, respectively depending therefrom, are improper because, at the very least, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest the claim limitations of the presently claimed invention as set forth hereinabove. Applicants submit that any proposed combination of the Bush reference and the Clapp reference does not teach or suggest the claim limitations of the respective amended independent claims.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10

Applicants, in amended independent claim 1 and claims 2, 3 and 5-10 depending therefrom, claim:

1. A video conferencing circuit for use with a plurality of video input devices and a video output device, said video conferencing circuit comprising:
video input means configured to select an input video signal from one of a plurality of video signal generating devices;
a remote interface circuit;
a video output device; and
an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) connected to said video input means, to said video output device and to said remote interface circuit, **said ASIC having**:
a high speed serial video input,
a video-in circuit connected to said video input means **to receive one of said input video signal** from one of said plurality of video signal generating devices **and a high speed serial video input,**
a memory circuit connected to said video-in circuit **to receive said one of said input video signal and said high speed serial video input**, said memory circuit being configured **to retain and transmit said one of said input video signal and said high speed serial video input** as stored data,
data compression means . . .,
video processing means . . .,
video decompression means . . ., and
video image out means . . .. (Emphasis added.)

Applicants' invention as claimed includes a **"video-in circuit connected to said video input means to receive one of said input video signal from one of said plurality of video signal generating devices and a high speed serial video input"** and that signal is passed and processed through the other elements of the invention as claimed. Applicants' invention, in addition to more conventional video inputs, includes an input to the "video-in circuit" for "a high speed serial video input" separate from the more conventional "input video signal" devices.

In contrast, Bush discloses:

a video telephone system in which . . . [v]ideo and audio information are transmitted simultaneously by means of a composite signal that includes a mixture of both video data and audio data . . . so that expensive synchronization hardware need not be incorporated . . .. (Col. 4,

lines 39-51).

Specifically, Bush matches one video signal with one audio signal and mixes them together to maintain synchronicity between the video and the corresponding audio. Bush does not disclose "select[ing] an input video signal from one of a plurality of video signal generating devices . . ." as claimed by Applicants. Additionally, Bush is not motivated to select a video signal from among a plurality of video signals as Bush is motivated to "mix" signals rather than "select one" signal.

In further contrast, Clapp discloses:

Local video signals produced at the local conferencing site 240 by either an NTSC or a PAL video camera are preferably received by the main video input jack 152 and/or the auxiliary video input jack 154. (Col. 20, lines 22-26).

Specifically, Clapp performs "detection and determination of the video signal format [which] is performed by the NTSC/PAL decoder 302 as it processes the header information and other constituent data comprising a PAL and an NTSC video signal." (Col. 20, lines 35-38). Those of ordinary skill in the art appreciate that PAL and NTSC are "conventional" video standards and are not in keeping with "high speed serial video inputs", an example of which complies with the FireWire or USB standards, and the specifics of which are known by those of ordinary skill in the art.

Since neither Bush nor Clapp, either individually or in any proper combination, teach or suggest a **"video-in circuit connected to said video input means to receive one of said input video signal from one of said plurality of video signal generating devices and a high speed serial video input . . "** as claimed by Applicants in amended independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that any rejection of the presently claimed invention based upon any combination of the Bush reference and the Clapp reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Therefore, presently amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-10 depending therefrom, are clearly allowable over the cited prior art of the Bush reference in view of the Clapp reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 11-13 and 15-20

Applicants, in amended independent claim 11 and claims 12, 13 and 15-20 depending therefrom, claim:

11. A video conferencing circuit for use with a plurality of video output devices and a video input device, said video conferencing circuit comprising:
video output means configured to select one of a plurality of video output devices to receive an output video signal;
a remote interface circuit;
a video input device; and
an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) connected to said video input device, to said video output means and to said remote interface circuit, **said ASIC having**:
a high speed serial video input,
a video-in circuit connected to said video input device **to receive one of a video input signal from said video input device and a high speed serial video input,**
a memory circuit connected to said video-in circuit **to receive said one of said video input signal and said high speed serial video input,** said memory circuit being configured **to retain and transmit said one of said video input signal and said high speed serial video input** as stored data,
data compression means . . .,
video processing means . . .,
video decompression means . . ., and
video image out circuit . . .. (Emphasis added.)

Applicants' invention as claimed includes a **"video-in circuit connected to said video input device to receive one of a video input signal from said video input device and a high speed serial video input"** and that signal is passed and processed through the other elements of the invention as claimed. Applicants' invention, in addition to more conventional video inputs,

includes an input to the "video-in circuit" for "a high speed serial video input" separate from the more conventional "input video signal" devices.

In contrast, Bush discloses:

a video telephone system in which . . . [v]ideo and audio information are transmitted simultaneously by means of a composite signal that includes a mixture of both video data and audio data . . . so that expensive synchronization hardware need not be incorporated . . .. (Col. 4, lines 39-51).

Specifically, Bush matches one video signal with one audio signal and mixes them together to maintain synchronicity between the video and the corresponding audio. Bush does not disclose "select[ing] an input video signal from one of a plurality of video signal generating devices . . ." as claimed by Applicants. Additionally, Bush is not motivated to select a video signal from among a plurality of video signals as Bush is motivated to "mix" signals rather than "select one" signal.

In further contrast, Clapp discloses:

Local video signals produced at the local conferencing site 240 by either an NTSC or a PAL video camera are preferably received by the main video input jack 152 and/or the auxiliary video input jack 154. (Col. 20, lines 22-26).

Specifically, Clapp performs "detection and determination of the video signal format [which] is performed by the NTSC/PAL decoder 302 as it processes the header information and other constituent data comprising a PAL and an NTSC video signal." (Col. 20, lines 35-38). Those of ordinary skill in the art appreciate that PAL and NTSC are "conventional" video standards and are not in keeping with "high speed serial video inputs", an example of which complies with the FireWire or USB standards, and the specifics of which are known by those of ordinary skill in the art.

Since neither Bush nor Clapp either individually or in any proper combination teach or suggest a **"a video-in circuit connected to said video input device to receive one of a video**

input signal from said video input device and a high speed serial video input" as claimed by Applicants in amended independent claim 11, Applicants respectfully submit that any rejection of the presently claimed invention based upon any combination of the Bush reference and the Clapp reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Therefore, presently amended independent claim 11, and claims 12-20 depending therefrom, are clearly allowable over the cited prior art of the Bush reference in view of the Clapp reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 22-24

Applicants, in amended independent claim 22 and claims 23 and 24 depending therefrom, claim:

22. A video conferencing circuit for use with a plurality of video input devices and a plurality of video output devices, said video conferencing circuit comprising:
video input means configured to select an input video signal from one of a plurality of video signal generating devices;
a remote interface circuit;
video output means configured to select one of a plurality of video output devices to receive an output video signal; and
an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) connected to said video input means, to said video output device and to said remote interface circuit, said ASIC having means programmable
to receive one of said input video signal in a separate video signal format each from one of a plurality of separate video input devices **and a high speed serial video input as received data,**
to store the received data in as stored data,
to compress said stored data through an encoding process to create outgoing compressed data,
to output the outgoing compressed data through said remote interface circuit to a remote station,
to receive incoming compressed data from a remote station via said remote interface circuit,
to decompress the incoming compressed data through a decoding process,
to store the decompressed data, and

to output the decompressed data through said video output means for display by one of said plurality of video output devices. (Emphasis added.)

As described above, Applicants' invention as claimed includes a **"an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) . . . to receive one of said input video signal . . . and a high speed serial video input as receive data"** and that selected input video signal is individually passed and processed through the other elements of the invention as claimed.

In contrast, Bush discloses:

a video telephone system in which . . . [v]ideo and audio information are transmitted simultaneously by means of a composite signal that includes a mixture of both video data and audio data . . . so that expensive synchronization hardware need not be incorporated . . .. (Col. 4, lines 39-51).

Bush matches one video signal with one audio signal and mixes them together to maintain synchronicity between the video and the corresponding audio. Bush does not disclose **"an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) . . . to receive one of said input video signal . . . and a high speed serial video input as receive data"** as claimed by Applicants. Additionally, Bush is not motivated to select a video signal from among a plurality of video signals as Bush is motivated to "mix" signals rather than "select one" signal. Furthermore, Bush does not disclose receiving **"one of said input video signal . . . and a high speed serial video input as receive data . . ."** as claimed by Applicants.

In further contrast, Clapp discloses:

Local video signals produced at the local conferencing site 240 by either an NTSC or a PAL video camera are preferably received by the main video input jack 152 and/or the auxiliary video input jack 154. (Col. 20, lines 22-26).

Specifically, Clapp performs "detection and determination of the video signal format [which] is performed by the NTSC/PAL decoder 302 as it processes the header information and other constituent data comprising a PAL and an NTSC video signal." (Col. 20, lines 35-38). Those of ordinary skill in the art appreciate that PAL and NTSC are "conventional" video

standards and are not in keeping with "high speed serial video inputs", and example of which complies with the FireWire or USB standards, and is known by those of ordinary skill in the art.

Since neither Bush nor Clapp either individually or in any proper combination teach or suggest a "**an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) . . . to receive one of said input video signal . . . and a high speed serial video input as receive data**" as claimed by Applicants in amended independent claim 22, Applicants respectfully submit that any rejection of the presently claimed invention based upon any combination of the Bush reference and the Clapp reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Therefore, presently amended independent claim 22, and claims 23-24 depending therefrom, are clearly allowable over the cited prior art of the Bush reference in view of the Clapp reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Obviousness Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 5,539,452 to Bush et al. and in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,281 to Clapp et al. as applied to Claims 4 and 14 above, and further in view of Minamizawa et al. (JP 08-307514A)

Claims 4 and 14

Claims 4 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bush et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,539,452) and Clapp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,802,281) as applied to Claims 1 and 14 above, and further in view of Minamizawa et al. (JP 08-307514A). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Claim 4 indirectly depends from now-allowable amended independent claim 1 and claim 14 indirectly depends from now-allowable amended independent claim 11. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 4 and 14 are allowable over the cited references and the rejections thereof should be withdrawn.

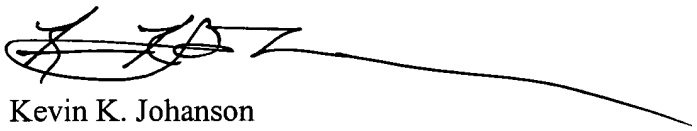
ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The proposed amendments to claims 1, 3, 6, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19 and 22 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application. Further, the amendments do not raise new issues or require a further search. Finally, if the Examiner determines that the amendments do not place the application in condition for allowance, entry is respectfully requested upon filing of a Notice of Appeal herein.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-20 and 22-24 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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